

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions,  
and listings, of claims in the application:

1   Claim 1 (currently amended): For use by a read/write  
2   machine, a method for assigning a unique label to a storage  
3   medium, the method comprising:

4       a) determining whether or not the storage medium has  
5       been assigned a unique volume label and a unique  
6       storage medium label, the unique storage medium label  
7       uniquely identifying the storage medium identifier;

8       b) if the storage medium has not been assigned a  
9       unique volume label and a unique storage medium label  
10      identifier, then

11         (i) determining a unique storage medium label  
12         identifier for the storage medium,

13         (ii) determining a unique volume label for the  
14         storage medium,

15         (iii) writing the unique volume label onto the  
16         storage medium, and

17         (iv) providing a command to generate a label  
18         based on the unique storage medium label  
19         identifier, the label to be associated with the  
20         storage medium; and

21       c) updating a database based on files, if any, added  
22       to or deleted from the storage medium.

1   Claim 2 (original): The method of claim 1 further  
2   comprising:

3       d) synchronizing the database with a database on a  
4       device apart from the read/write machine.

1   Claim 3 (original): The method of claim 2 wherein the  
2   read/write machine is a personal computer and the device is  
3   a handheld device.

1   Claim 4 (original): The method of claim 3 wherein the  
2   device is an untethered handheld device.

1   Claim 5 (original): The method of claim 1 wherein the  
2   read/write machine is a computer with at least one of (a) a  
3   floppy disk drive, (b) a CD ROM drive, (c) a ZIP drive, and  
4   (d) a DVD drive.

1   Claim 6 (currently amended): The method of claim 1 wherein  
2   the label based on the unique storage medium label  
3   identifier is a bar code label.

1   Claim 7 (original): The method of claim 1 wherein the act  
2   of determining a unique volume label is based, at least in  
3   part, on state information accessible to the read/write  
4   machine.

1   Claim 8 (original): The method of claim 7 wherein the  
2   state information is a count sequence.

1   Claim 9 (original): The method of claim 1 wherein the  
2   database includes records, each record including a first  
3   field having a value associated with the unique volume  
4   label, and a second field having a value associated with a  
5   file stored on the storage medium.

1 Claim 10 (previously presented): The method of claim 1,  
2 further comprising:  
3       d) accepting information read from a label associated  
4       with the storage medium without reading the storage  
5       medium;  
6       e) converting the accepted information into a  
7       database key;  
8       f) requesting records from a database instance using  
9       the database key;  
10      g) accepting records in response to the request; and  
11      h) rendering information about the accepted records.

1 Claim 11 (original): The method of claim 10 wherein the  
2 label associated with the storage medium is a bar code and  
3 wherein the information read from the label is accepted  
4 from a bar code scanner.

1 Claim 12 (original): The method of claim 10 wherein the  
2 information about the accepted records rendered includes  
3 file names.

1 Claim 13 (original): The method of claim 12 wherein the  
2 accepted information read from a label associated with the  
3 storage medium is read by a handheld device, and the  
4 information about the accepted records is rendered on the  
5 handheld device.

1 Claim 14 (original): The method of claim 13 wherein the  
2 read label is converted into a database key by the handheld  
3 device, the records are requested from a database instance  
4 using the database key by the handheld device, and the

5 records are accepted in response to the request by the  
6 handheld device.

1 Claim 15 (previously presented): A method for matching  
2 file parameters with one or more storage media, each of the  
3 one or more storage media having an associated label, the  
4 method comprising:

- 5 a) accepting one or more search parameters selected from  
6 a group of parameters consisting of (A) file name, (B)  
7 file size, (C) file author, and (D) file type;
- 8 b) generating a query based on the search parameters;
- 9 c) accepting one or more records returned in response to  
10 the query generated;
- 11 d) rendering information associated with each of the one  
12 or more records accepted, the information rendered being  
13 related to the label associated with the storage medium  
14 storing one or more files identified with the one or more  
15 records accepted, wherein the label is provided on the  
16 storage medium without storing it on the storage medium.

1 Claim 16 (original): The method of claim 15 wherein the  
2 labels are machine-readable labels, the method further  
3 comprising:

- 4 e) accepting information read from the  
5 machine-readable labels;
- 6 f) if the accepted information read from the  
7 machine-readable labels matches information associated  
8 with any one of the one or more records accepted, then  
9 generating a first indicator, said first indicator  
10 able to be perceived by humans.

1 Claim 17 (original): The method of claim 16 further  
2 comprising:

3 g) if the accepted information read from the  
4 machine-readable labels does not match information  
5 associated with any one of the one or more records  
6 accepted, then generating a second indicator, said second  
7 indicator able to be perceived by humans.

1 Claim 18 (original): The method of claim 17 wherein the  
2 first indicator is a first audible sound, and the second  
3 indicator is a second audible sound.

1 Claim 19 (original): The method of claim 15 wherein each  
2 of the labels include human-readable part, and wherein the  
3 information associated with each of the one or more records  
4 accepted corresponds to the human-readable part of the  
5 labels.

1 Claim 20 (currently amended): An apparatus for assigning a  
2 unique label to a removable storage medium, the apparatus  
3 comprising:

4 a) means for reading files from and/or writing files  
5 to a removable storage medium;  
6 b) means for generating a label;  
7 c) means for determining whether or not the removable  
8 storage medium has been assigned a unique volume label  
9 and a unique storage medium label, the unique storage  
10 medium label uniquely identifying the storage medium  
11 identifier;

12           d) means, if the storage medium has not been assigned  
13           a unique volume label and a unique storage medium  
14           label identifier, for  
15               (i) determining a unique storage medium label  
16               identifier,  
17               (ii) determining a unique volume label,  
18               (iii) instructing the means for reading and/or  
19               writing files to write the unique volume label  
20               onto the storage medium, and  
21               (iv) providing a command to generate a label  
22               based on the unique storage medium label  
23               identifier, to the means for generating a label;  
24               and  
25           e) a database, wherein the database is updated based  
26           on any files added to or deleted from the removable  
27           storage medium.

1     Claim 21 (original): The apparatus of claim 20 further  
2     comprising:

3       f) means for synchronizing the database with a  
4       database on a device apart from the apparatus.

1     Claim 22 (original): The apparatus of claim 21 wherein the  
2     device is a handheld device.

1     Claim 23 (original): The apparatus of claim 21 wherein the  
2     device is an untethered, handheld device.

1     Claim 24 (original): The apparatus of claim 20 wherein the  
2     means for reading files from and/or writing files to a  
3     removable storage medium are at least one of (a) a floppy

4 disk drive, (b) a CD ROM drive, (c) a ZIP drive, and (d) a  
5 DVD drive.

1 Claim 25 (original): The apparatus of claim 20 wherein the  
2 label is a bar code label.

1 Claim 26 (original): The apparatus of claim 20 further  
2 comprising:

3 f) state information, wherein the unique volume label  
4 is determined, at least in part, based on the state  
5 information.

1 Claim 27 (original): The apparatus of claim 26 wherein the  
2 state information is a count sequence.

1 Claim 28 (original): The apparatus of claim 20 wherein the  
2 database includes records, each record including a first  
3 field having a value associated with the unique volume  
4 label, and a second field having a value associated with a  
5 file stored on the removable storage medium.

1 Claim 29 (previously presented): The apparatus of claim 20  
2 further comprising:

3 f) means for reading a label associated with the  
4 storage medium without reading the storage medium;  
5 g) means for accepting information read, by the means  
6 for reading, from a label associated with the storage  
7 medium;  
8 h) means for converting the read label into a  
9 database key;

10           i) means for requesting records from a database  
11           instance using the database key;  
12           j) means for accepting records in response to the  
13           request; and  
14           k) means for rendering information about the accepted  
15           records.

1     Claim 30 (original): The apparatus of claim 29 wherein the  
2     means for reading is a bar code scanner, and wherein the  
3     label associated with the storage medium is a bar code.

1     Claim 31 (original): The apparatus of claim 29 wherein the  
2     information about the accepted records rendered includes  
3     file names.

1     Claim 32 (original): The apparatus of claim 29 wherein the  
2     means for rendering is a display.

1     Claim 33 (previously presented): The apparatus of claim 29  
2     further comprising:  
3        1) the database.

1     Claim 34 (previously presented): The apparatus of claim 33  
2     further comprising:  
3        m) means for synchronizing the database with a  
4           database maintained by a separate machine which  
5           created the storage medium.

1     Claim 35 (currently amended): An apparatus for matching  
2     file parameters with one or more storage media, each of the  
3     one or more storage media having an associated label, the  
4     apparatus comprising:

5       a) a user input for accepting one or more search  
6       parameters selected from a group of parameters consisting  
7       of (A) file name, (B) file size, (C) file author, and (D)  
8       file type;  
9       b) means for generating a query based on the accepted  
10      one or more search parameters;  
11      c) means for accepting one or more records returned in  
12      response to the query generated;  
13      d) means for rendering information associated with each  
14      of the one or more records accepted, the information  
15      rendered being related to the label associated with the  
16      storage medium storing one or more files identified with  
17      the one or more records accepted, wherein the label is  
18      provided on the storage medium without storing it on the  
19      storage medium.

1       Claim 36 (original): The apparatus of claim 35 wherein the  
2       labels are machine-readable labels, the apparatus further  
3       comprising:

4       e) a label reader for reading information read from  
5       the machine-readable labels; and  
6       f) an output means for generating a first indicator  
7       able to be perceived by humans if the accepted  
8       information read from the machine-readable labels  
9       matches information associated with any one of the one  
10      or more records accepted.

1       Claim 37 (original): The apparatus of claim 36 wherein the  
2       output means further generates a second indicator able to  
3       be perceived by humans if the accepted information read  
4       from the machine-readable labels does not match information

5 associated with any one of the one or more records  
6 accepted.

1 Claim 38 (original): The apparatus of claim 37 wherein the  
2 output means is a speaker, wherein the first indicator is a  
3 first audible sound, and wherein the second indicator is a  
4 second audible sound.

1 Claim 39 (original): The apparatus of claim 35 wherein  
2 each of the labels include human-readable part, and wherein  
3 the information associated with each of the one or more  
4 records accepted corresponds to the human-readable part of  
5 the labels.

1 Claim 40 (currently amended): The method of claim 1  
2 wherein if the storage medium has not been assigned a  
3 unique volume label and a unique storage medium label  
4 identifier then further,  
5 - generating a label based on the unique storage  
6 medium label identifier, and  
7 - fixing the generated label to the storage  
8 medium without storing it on the storage medium.

1 Claim 41 (currently amended): The apparatus of claim 20  
2 further comprising means, if the storage medium has not  
3 been assigned a unique volume label and a unique storage  
4 medium label identifier, for  
5 - generating a label based on the unique storage  
6 medium label identifier, and  
7 - fixing the generated label to the storage  
8 medium without storing it on the storage medium.

1   Claim 42 (previously presented): The method of claim 15  
2   wherein the information rendered is related to the label  
3   associated with the storage medium storing one or more  
4   files identified with the one or more records accepted such  
5   that a user or a scanner can distinguish the storage medium  
6   including the label from other storage media.

1   Claim 43 (previously presented): The method of claim 1  
2   further comprising:  
3       d) updating the database based on files deleted from  
4       the storage medium.